

Kansas Health Policy Authority Board Members

(11-10)



Garen Cox, JD

President, Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel for Medicalodges, Inc.

<u>Work Address:</u> 201 W 8th Street PO Box 509 Coffeyville, KS 67337 (620) 251-6700 ext. 344 Fax: (620) 251-6798 glcox@medicalodges.com	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Pauline Maxson (620) 251-6700 ext. 360 psmaxson@medicalodges.com
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Garen Cox is the President, Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel for Medicalodges, Inc. home multi-facility operation in America with 41 locations in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Medicalodges employs in excess of 2400 employees and is the only 100% employee-owned nursing home multi-facility operation in America. Cox joined Medicalodges after graduating law school and has served as its general counsel handling all of the legal matters associated with a large health care operation.

Since March 14, 2003, Cox has served the company as its President, CEO, and General Counsel. He was recently elected to a third term as President, CEO, and General Counsel. Cox has also served as Medicalodges' Executive Vice-President and General Counsel (1998 to 2003). From 1976 to 1998, Cox was employed by Medicalodges serving as Vice President and General Counsel.

In 1976 Cox began work in private law practice representing individuals in all walks of life and represented indigent defendants in criminal matters until 1998.

Garen Cox graduated from Washburn School of Law in 1976. He completed his undergraduate degree at Kansas University with a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree in 1973.

Cox graduated from Mound City High School (1969) as Co-Valedictorian with numerous awards for leadership and scholastic achievement. Active 4-H Club Member, toured Washington, D.C. sponsored by Rural Electric Cooperative. Toured Europe on music scholarship (Trumpet). Winner of numerous awards in public speaking. Outstanding Student Award by the American Legion and John Phillip Sousa Award for outstanding musician. American Legion Boys State (Senator).

Cox has served the state and community in many capacities:

- Board of Directors of Medicalodges, Inc. (1998 to Present)
- Officer and Board of Directors of Peoples Choice Credit Union, Coffeyville, KS (1980 to 2005)
- Leadership Kansas (1992)

- Served on the Governor's Long-Term Care Task Force for the State of Kansas (appointed by Governor Bill Graves).
- Active in local Nazarene Church as past Board Member, Teacher, Leader.
- Member of American Bar Association, American Trial Lawyers Association, American Health Lawyers Association, Kansas Bar Association, Kansas Trial Lawyers Association, and Montgomery County Bar Association.
- Currently serves on the American Health Care Association's Medical Liability Reform Subcommittee (2004 to present) and the Kansas Health Care Association's Tort Reform Subcommittee (Chair) (2004 to present).
- Kansas Health Care Association's Multi-Facility Vice-President. (2005)
- Has served or is presently serving on other groups related to the improvement of the health care community and volunteer groups.
- Frequent lecturer and teacher on health care issues and taught a course for paralegal training at Independence Community College.
- Appointed by the Speaker of the Kansas House, Doug Mays, to serve on the Kansas Health Policy Authority under what was described by Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius as "one of the most significant reorganizations in the history of state government in Kansas." (August 2005)

Garen Cox has been married for thirty years to Waneta who is a teacher for the Tri-County Special Education Cooperative at the Independence High School in Independence, KS. They have two adult children: Branden and Christopher.



Ray Davis, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of Kansas

<u>Work Address:</u> Blake Hall, RM 311 University of Kansas Lawrence, Kansas 66044 Phone: 785-864-9089 rdavis@ku.edu	
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Dr. Ray Davis is a faculty member in the Department of Public Administration, University of Kansas. He holds a PhD from the University of California in political science and public policy. While in graduate school, he was a staff consultant for the Natural Resources Committee, California State Senate from 1968 to 1972. He was a post doctoral Fellow with the US Public Health Service in Washington DC 1974 to 1976. He was a Board member and Chair of the Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center in Lawrence and served for nine years as a Trustee (Chair) of the Lawrence Memorial Hospital. He was the founding Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management at KU that he chaired for 16 years. His research has focused on problems of access to health care, most recently on children's access to dental services.



Ken Daniel

Chairman of the Board, Midway Wholesale of Topeka

<u>Home Address:</u> 5630 SW Fairlawn Topeka KS 66610 (785) 232-4590 x205 kdaniel@midwaywholesale.com	<u>Assistant Info:</u>
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Ken Daniel is Chairman of the Board of Midway Wholesale of Topeka, which he founded in 1970. He took partial retirement from Midway in August 2008. He is also the managing partner of Wohlgemuth & Daniel Investments, LLP. In Topeka, he has been the volunteer leader of the Jaycees, the Active 20/30 Club, the YMCA, the YMCA Foundation, the Construction Specifications Institute, and the Topeka Independent Business Association. He is a board member of the Better Business Bureau and Fidelity State Bank. Statewide, he served four years as a state Jaycee officer and three years as state chairman of the National Federation of Independent Business. He serves as an appointee on three state boards: Board Member of the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship; Member of the Kansas, Inc. Strategic Planning Committee; Kansas Health Policy Authority Board of Directors.



Arneatha Martin, BSN, MSN, ARNP

Retired Co-President and CEO, Center for Health and Wellness

<u>Home Address:</u> 5218 Pembroke Circle Wichita, KS 67220 (316) 684-6469 Cell: (316) 210-5021 arneathamartin@hotmail.com	<u>Assistant Info:</u>
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Arneatha Martin has served the health community in many capacities throughout her profession. Having recently retired, Martin leaves behind a distinguished career that includes: Director Department of Education and Research, St. Joseph Medical Center, 1987-1996, Director of Development, Via Christi Health System, 1996-1998, and Chief Executive Officer & Co-President, Center for Health and Wellness, Inc., 1998 – 2005. (retired May 2005).

Arneatha Martin received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 1975 and Masters of Science degree in Nursing in 1980. She received her Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) certification in 1996 from the Kansas State Board of Nursing. Martin is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserve (Retired). She spent 6 months in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War.

Martin's involvement in the community is extensive. She is involved with or holds office with the following organizations:

- Wichita State University Board of Trustees
- Board of Directors, Sedgwick County Board of Health
- Team member, National Governor's Policy Academy of Chronic Disease Prevention & Management.
- Board of Directors, Wichita State University Alumni Assoc.
- Board of Directors, Step Stone
- Board of Directors, American Red Cross
- Board of Directors, Center for Health and Wellness
- Board of Directors, American Lung Association
- Board of Directors, Regional Prevention Center

Martin is also widely involved in professional organizations:

- Wichita State Nursing Alumni Society
- Wichita Black Nurses Association
- Kansas Association of Health Education
- Kansas State Nurses Association

- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
- Kansas State Nurses' Association
- Soroptimist International of Wichita
- National Black Nurses' Association
- Wichita Chapter of Links, Inc.
- Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing

Martin's notable career has awarded her many honors. These include:

- Sedgwick County Community Enrichment Award 2004.
- National Black Nurses Administrator of the Year Award 2002.
- The National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian Awards 2002.
- Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader Award 2001.
- Search Committee member for Wichita State University's President and Dean of College of Health Professions.
- Leadership Kansas class of '98.
- Women in NAACP award 1997.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. 1998 Recognition Award.
- Distinguished Nursing Alumni Award 1997.
- Up with people Award, Urban League of Wichita.
- Wichita State University Alumni Achievement Award 1998.
- President, Kansas State Board of Nursing 1996-97.



Vernon A. Mills, MD

Pediatrician

<u>Work Address:</u> 3550 S. 4th Street, Suite 120 Leavenworth, KS 66048 (913) 772-6046 Fax: 913-758-0500 vamdlh@birch.net	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Nancy Agnew (913) 772-6046 ext. 206
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Dr. Vernon Mills, a pediatrician, graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, KS in 1977 after earning a Bachelors of Science in pharmacy from Howard University in 1974. He went on to complete his internship and residency at the District of Columbia General Hospital, Washington, DC, 1978 and 1979 respectively. In 1980, Dr. Mills completed a Pediatric Infection Disease Fellowship at the University of Texas at Houston, Houston, TX. He is board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics.

Dr. Mills' professional activities have included being a founding member and first president of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association in 1972 and has held positions of: Alternate Councilor, Councilor, 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President, and President of the Kansas Medical Society. He has also held the position of President of the KAW Valley Medical Society. Dr. Mills is an active member of the National Medical Association and the American Medical Association. He has been active on the Board of Directors for Heartland Health, Sunflower Foundation, and KAMMCO.

Dr. Mills and his wife, Cheryl, have four children, two daughters and two sons.



Susan Page, MA

CEO of Pratt Regional Medical Center

<u>Work Address:</u> Pratt Regional Medical Center 200 Commodore St. Pratt, KS 67124 (620) 450-1163 Fax: (620) 672-2113 spage@prmc.org	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Nancy Bailey nbailey@prmc.org (620) 450-1160
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Susan Page has been President and CEO of Pratt Regional Medical Center since 1993.

Susan received her Master's degree in Business Administration from Webster University in St. Louis, MO and her Bachelor's degree in Medical Record Administration from the University of Kansas. She is a Certified Diplomate in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

She has served as President and CEO since 1993. Pratt Regional Medical Center includes a 69 bed acute care hospital, a 51 bed long-term care nursing home, a home health agency, 2 physician specialty clinics, and three outlying rural health clinics.

Page served as Chairman of the Board of the Kansas Hospital Association in 2002 and 2003, and recently completed her term on the Board. She is currently serving on the Region 6 Policy Board of the American Hospital Association.

Page serves on Congressman Moran's Executive Council; serves on the Regents Advisory Council of the American College of Healthcare Executives; is a member of VHA Mid-America Board of Directors; and previously served as president of the Kansas Association of Healthcare Executives, Chair of the Kansas Hospital Service Corporation, and as a member of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry board of Directors.

Locally, Page is past President of the Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce; a founding Board member of Leadership 2000, a member of the Pratt Rotary Club, and Sacred Heart Church.

Susan and her husband Jim have two children, Katie who is 17 and Hannah who is 13.



Dr. William A. Reed

Chairman, The University of Kansas Hospital Department of Cardiovascular Diseases

<u>Work Address:</u> 3901 Rainbow Blvd. Mailstop 4035 Kansas City, KS 66160 <u>Mailing Address:</u> P.O. Box 3156 Kansas City, KS 66103 (913) 588-2846 Fax: (913) 588-2870 wreed2@kumc.edu	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Pat Kinsman (913) 588-2846 Fax: (913) 588-2870 pkinsman@kumc.edu
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Dr. Reed currently serves as the Chairman of the Department of Cardiovascular Diseases at the University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City, Kansas. He received his medical degree from Indiana University and his post-graduate work was done at the University of Kansas. He served on the faculty of the University of Kansas Medical Center for 10 years during which time he became a tenured Professor in Surgery and Chairman of the Thoracic Surgical Division of the Department of Surgery. He subsequently moved to St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri in 1971 where he founded the Mid America Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgeons group specializing in heart, vascular, and pulmonary surgery. In 2001 Dr. Reed moved back to the University of Kansas Hospital with a number of his surgical specialty and cardiology colleagues from St. Luke's to re-establish a Cardiovascular Program. A physician partnership established with the hospital leadership at the University of Kansas Hospital has resulted in a nationally recognized program in cardiovascular diseases.

He has authored or co-authored 94 scientific publications and performed over 10,000 open heart operations during his career.

Dr. Reed has been married for over 50 years to Mary J. Reed and has three sons. Dr. and Mrs. Reed also established Stonecrest Farm dedicated to breeding and racing thoroughbreds.



David Sanford (Board Nominee)

CEO, GraceMed Health Clinic

<u>Work Address:</u> GraceMed Health Clinic, Inc. 1122 N. Topeka Wichita, KS 67214 316- 866-2001 dsanford@gracemed.org	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Cheryl Plucker 316-866-2069 cplucker@gracemed.org
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David Sanford has been CEO of the GraceMed Health Clinic, Inc., since June 2004 and is responsible to the Board of Directors for all operations and activities of the GraceMed Health Clinic, Inc. health care ministry. He is directly or indirectly involved in all operational, clinical, development, community outreach and advocacy programs. In six years, GraceMed has grown from 24 staff members providing health care through ~15,000 patient visits per year (2004) to 95 staff members providing ~46,000 patient visits per year (2009). The ministry has received significant federal, state and private support. GraceMed is a Federally Qualified Health Center (2007) and is fortunate to receive State of Kansas support through KDHE's annual primary care program.

Note from Dave: My wife Debbie and I returned to Wichita from Atlanta, GA in October of 1998 to care for my mother (Alzheimer's Disease). Having spent the majority of my vocational life working for medical manufacturing companies, my career path was somewhat derailed upon arrival in Wichita. I was fortunate to find employment with the following two employers. When the GraceMed position came open, I knew God had given me a unique set of experiences to manage a health care clinic although I had not previously been in that field. Surrounding myself with dedicated, capable physicians, dentists, managers and support staff, GraceMed's growth is a testimony to the daily commitment of our staff to providing quality health care for the underserved.

From 2002 to 2004, David was a Component Lab Manager with the American Red Cross, responsible for supervising a team of twelve people to process blood collections for the ARC. His primary duties included hiring/training employees, assigning staff responsibilities, assuring compliance with FDA and ARC regulations/standards and insuring that hospitals in Kansas and Oklahoma have a safe and plentiful supply of blood, plasma and platelets for patient use. He worked second shift in order to care for his mother with Alzheimer's disease.

David served as Vice President, Marketing and Development, with the Kansas Children's Service League from 1999 to 2002. He was responsible for fund development for both the Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) and the KCSL Foundation. He was also responsible for the communications function for the agency and for the recruitment of adoptive and foster care families as a primary contractor with the

State of Kansas. He supervised a staff of eighteen people including ten in recruitment, four in communications and four staff in development. He developed the "Coming Home Kansas" family resource recruitment campaign for adoptive and foster care families. He worked closely with volunteer advisory councils in locations where KCSL has a strong program presence (e.g. Wichita, Topeka, Hutchinson, Salina, Kansas City). He also worked with KCSL's Board of Directors and Foundation Trustees to develop and execute fundraising plans. He coordinated numerous activities with other social service agencies (e.g. Salvation Army) on common projects like foster care recruitment. The State of Kansas reduced its support to KCSL for foster care and adoptive family recruitment. The entire team of recruiters and communications staff was laid-off, and his position as head of the "Coming Home Kansas" initiative was eliminated.

During the years 1986 to 1999, David served in various Director roles within the Coloplast Corporation:

From 1995 to 1999, he was the Director Business Service, responsible for the customer service, information service and logistics/shipping functions of a \$75 million dollar medical product business. These departments included over 60 employees in four locations through the U.S. and Canada. He planned and managed the transition of three companies (two acquisitions) into one corporate entity. He was responsible for managing budgets, hiring/training personnel, developing constant improvement programs, reducing costs and increasing productivity for two company divisions. He planned and executed a move to a new distribution facility, working with contractors and vendors to achieve a successful and timely transition.

He was Director of Marketing from 1990 to 1995, responsible for the marketing/communications program of the medical products business. He planned the strategies/tactics for the positioning, pricing, promotion and sale of proprietary wound care, continence and ostomy products. Prior to the 1994/95 acquisition of two related medical companies, product sales were \$12 million dollars. Supervised a marketing staff of five people and supported a sales force of 25 representatives. After the acquisition, managed a staff of ten people and supported a sales force of 100 sales representatives.

He was Product Director from 1986 to 1990, responsible for the marketing/communications program for the ostomy and wound care product brands. He developed advertising and promotion campaigns and launched new products. He supported the sale force with collateral material, trade show opportunities and direct mail efforts.

David was Product Manager, Senior Sales Representative and Trainer, and Sales Representative with the Deseret Medical Company (Becton Dickinson) from 1980 to 1986. During six years with the company, he started as a Sales Representative in North Carolina and was promoted to Senior Sales Representative and Sales Trainer for his region. In four sales years, he grew territory from \$220k to \$800k in annual product sales. He was promoted and moved to Salt Lake City, UT to become Product Manager for the Infection Control product line. As Product Manager, he organized all support and promotion activities for increasing product line sales.

During the years of 1975 to 1980, he served as Campaign Director, Campaign Associate, and United Way Intern with the United Way of America. He was selected and served as one of fifteen national United Way of America interns. He participated in a year-long program to learn the public relations, fundraising, planning and allocations functions of local United Way work. Following the internship, he spent the next

two years as a Campaign Associate in Minneapolis, MN with primary responsibility for fundraising. In 1979, he was promoted to Campaign Director in Greensboro, NC. As Campaign Director, he organized and supported the efforts of volunteers to reach the organization's annual fundraising goals.

He served as a school social worker from 1974 to 1975 in Unified School District #259 in Wichita, Kansas, providing casework services for public school students in a high school, a middle school and four elementary schools.

David holds a bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Kansas.



Joe Tilghman

Retired, Midwest Consortium Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), HHS

<u>Home Address:</u> 10205 Bond St Overland Park, KS 66214 (913) 888-8545 jtilghman@kc.rr.com	<u>Assistant Info:</u>
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Joe Tilghman has served the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in a senior field leadership position in a career spanning nearly the entire period of enactment of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Tilghman retired on January, 2005, after 37 years of distinguished federal service.

As Midwest Consortium Administrator, Tilghman was responsible for federal administration of the Medicare and Medicaid programs in IA, KS, MO, NE, MN, MI, IN, IL, WI, and OH. He was an active member of the CMS Executive Council. Tilghman worked a six month detail to New York City following 9-11 to run the New York City, Boston, and Philadelphia regions. Prior to joining CMS (then the Health Care Financing Administration) in 1978 he worked in Social and Rehabilitative Services and the Bureau of Health Insurance.

A former Army Captain, Tilghman earned his Bachelors of Arts from the University of Kansas in 1967, majoring in philosophy and English. In 1970, he went on to complete a Masters of Science from Troy State University in education. Tilghman has also completed 30 hours of graduate work in Public Health Administration at the University of Missouri at Kansas City, 1972 – 1978.

Joe Tilghman and wife, Jo Anne Hardy, have two adult children: Stephanie and Abigail.

Ex-officio Members



Andrew Allison, BA, MA, PhD

Executive Director of the Kansas Health Policy Authority

<u>Work Address:</u> 900 SW Jackson, Suite 900-North Topeka, KS 66612 785-368-8162 Andrew.Allison@khp.ks.gov	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Amber Hermreck Phone: 785-368-8162 FAX: 785-296-3468 Amber.Hermreck@khp.ks.gov
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Dr. Allison began working at KHPA in December 2005 as the Deputy Director. He took on the additional role of State Medicaid Director in November 2006. Before joining KHPA, he spent six years at the Kansas Health Institute as a researcher and Director of Health Care Finance and Organization. His research focused primarily on the effectiveness, availability and cost of health care and health insurance in Kansas. He worked as a Medicaid budget analyst at the Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C., from 1992-95 providing staff support to President Clinton's health care reform effort and reviewing comprehensive statewide health care reform waiver applications. He has a bachelor's degree in history from Oklahoma Baptist University, a master's degree in public policy from Duke University, and a doctorate in economics from Vanderbilt University.



Acting Secretary John Mitchell

Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

<u>Work Address:</u> 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 540 Topeka, KS 66612 (785) 296-0461 jmitchell@kdheks.gov	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Kay White (785) 296-0461 FAX: (785) 296-0767 KWhite@kdheks.gov
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John W. Mitchell is the Acting Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. He was appointed by Governor Mark Parkinson on November 2, 2010. His background includes more than 30 years of public service. In his role as Acting Secretary of KDHE, Mitchell oversees the regulation of health and environmental entities in Kansas including child care centers, hospitals, laboratories, feedlots, landfills and various other industries with environmental impacts. He works with staff and colleagues to develop initiatives to improve the health of Kansans and the environmental condition of the state.

In addition to his role as Acting Secretary, Mitchell also serves as the Director of KDHE's Division of Environment. He has held this position in June 2008 and in this capacity, he directs all environmental program activities for KDHE and oversees a statewide staff of approximately 490 employees.

Acting Secretary Mitchell has served Kansans in several other roles in KDHE, including three years as the Director of the Bureau of Environmental Field Services, where he directed all environmental work in the Department's six regional offices. Prior to that, much of Mr. Mitchell's career was spent in programs of the Bureau of Waste Management where he served in a number of capacities including Chief of the Waste Compliance, Enforcement, and Policy Section. In this capacity, he was responsible for overall compliance and enforcement activities related to both hazardous and solid waste management. Mitchell also served as Chief of the Hazardous Waste Section and was responsible for all hazardous waste management program activities including facility permitting.

Acting Secretary Mitchell holds a master's degree in Environmental Health Science from the University of Kansas where he also completed an undergraduate degree in Biology and Microbiology. Mitchell resides in Lawrence, Kansas, with his wife and two children.



Secretary Martin Kennedy

Secretary of the Kansas Department on Aging

<u>Work Address:</u> 503 S Kansas Ave Topeka, KS 66603 (785) 296-5222 Martin.Kennedy@aging.ks.gov	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Traci Ward (785) 296-5222 FAX: (785) 296-0767 Traci.Ward@aging.ks.gov
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Martin Kennedy was appointed Acting Secretary of the Department on Aging in early August 2009. His career in government and health care management and finance spans over more than 20 years, focusing on building systems and advocating services that support vulnerable Kansans. He has served in management positions at Kansas Department on Aging since 2004. He was Director of Budget and Governmental

Affairs from 2004 to 2006 and Commissioner of Licensure, Certification and Evaluation from 2006 to 2008.

Kennedy was Chief Financial Officer at the Mental Health Consortium, an Administrative Services Organization, from 2000 through 2004. His previous government service includes work as Controller for the Kansas Insurance Department from 1996 to 1999. He was an analyst in the Kansas Division of the Budget from 1986 through 1995. He currently serves on the board of Valeo Behavioral Health Care in Topeka, and chairs the board of University Child Development, an affiliate of Washburn University. Kennedy earned a Master of Public Administration Degree and a Bachelor's Degree in History from Kansas State University.



Secretary Duane Goossen

Secretary of Administration

<u>Work Address:</u> Division of the Budget 900 SW Jackson, Rm 504 Landon State Office Building Topeka, KS 66612 (785) 296-2436 duane.goossen@budget.ks.gov	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Sandy Russell (785) 296-2436 sandy.russell@budget.ks.gov
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Duane Goossen serves Kansas in a dual role, as both the State Budget Director and as the Secretary of Administration. Goossen was appointed as the Secretary of Administration in 2004 and has been the State Budget Director since 1998. He has also served as chairman of the Information Technology Executive Council.

A 1978 graduate of Bethel College, Goossen is an active member of the National Association of State Budget Officers.



Secretary Don Jordan

Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services

<u>Work Address:</u> 915 SW Harrison Docking Building, 6 th floor Topeka, KS 66612 (785) 296-3274 FAX: (785) 296-4685 Don.Jordan@srs.ks.gov	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Penny McCoy 785-296-3274 FAX: (785) 296-4685 Penny.McCoy@srs.ks.gov
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Don Jordan was appointed Acting Secretary of SRS in December 2006. As Secretary, he oversees the operation of one of the state's largest agencies with an approximate budget of \$1.5 billion and 6,000 employees. Prior to assuming the role of Cabinet Secretary at SRS, Don served as Commissioner of the Juvenile Justice Authority. Don brings three decades of SRS experience in the field of human services to his position; he is the former Superintendent for Osawatomie State Hospital, Director of Operations for Children & Family Services, and Director of Operations for Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities. Don is a native of Wichita. He attended Wichita State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in political science.



Dr. Jason Eberhart-Phillips

Director of Health and Kansas State Health Officer, KDHE

<u>Work Address:</u> 1000 SW Jackson Street, Ste 300 Topeka, KS 66612 (785) 296-1086 jeberhart-phillips@kdheks.gov	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Nancy Akin (785) 296-1086 FAX: (785) 296-1652 nakin@kdheks.gov
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Dr. Jason Eberhart-Phillips became the Director of Health and Kansas State Health Officer with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, in March 2009. Dr. Eberhart-Phillips had served as the county health officer of El Dorado County, California, since 2006. Prior to his appointment as health

officer in El Dorado County, Dr. Eberhart-Phillips served as senior lecturer in the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine at Otago University in Dunedin, New Zealand.

He earned his undergraduate degree in journalism from Northwestern University and his medical degree from the University of California San Francisco. He also holds a master's degree in public health from the University of California Berkeley, and a master of divinity degree from the Pacific School of Religion.

Dr. Eberhart-Phillips has also served as the chronic disease director for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, as a medical epidemiologist for the ESR Health Communicable Disease Centre in Porirua, New Zealand, and as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Before becoming a physician, Dr. Eberhart-Phillips worked as a news reporter in Pennsylvania and Arizona. He has been the lead or principal investigator on a number of research and surveillance activities, and he is a well-published author, writing two books and numerous medical articles.



Dr. Diane DeBacker

Commissioner of Education

<u>Work Address:</u> 120 SW 10 th Street Topeka, KS 66612 (785) 296-3202 ddebacker@ksde.org	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Penny Rice (785) 296-3202 FAX: (785) 291-3791 price@ksde.org
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Dr. Diane DeBacker was appointed Commissioner of Education in September 2010 by the Kansas Board of Education, after serving as Interim Commissioner of Education, as well as the Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Learning Services for the Kansas State Department of Education. She also served as Director of School Improvement and Accreditation for KSDE from 2003 - 2006. In 2006, she joined Shawnee Heights USD 450 as Associate Superintendent. Dr. DeBacker was principal of Washburn Rural Alternative High School in the Auburn-Washburn USD 437 school district. She has also served as a high school assistant principal, district curriculum facilitator, director of a statewide curriculum center, and a classroom teacher. Dr. DeBacker served on the Kaw Valley USD 321 school board from 1999-2003, including the offices of president and vice president. She has also served as an adjunct professor at Kansas State University and Washburn University. Dr. DeBacker has a bachelor's degree in Business Education from Emporia State University, a master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Washburn University, and a doctorate in Educational Administration and Leadership from Kansas State University.



Sandy Praeger

Insurance Commissioner

<u>Work Address:</u> Kansas Insurance Dept. 420 SW 9 th St Topeka, KS 66612 (785) 291-3299 spraeger@ksinsurance.org	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Karen Rippel (785) 291-3299 FAX: (785) 296-7805 krippel@ksinsurance.org
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Commissioner Sandy Praeger was elected as Kansas' 24th Commissioner of Insurance on November 2, 2002 and began serving in the position on January 13, 2003. Commissioner Praeger is responsible for regulating all insurance sold in Kansas and overseeing the nearly 1,700 insurance companies and 65,000 agents licensed to do business in the state.

Currently, she serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Also within the NAIC, she serves on the Ex-1 Committee for Internal Administration, chairs the Audit Committee, is Vice Chair of the Health Insurance and Managed Care Committee and is a member of the Life Insurance and Annuities Committee. She previously served as vice chair for the NAIC Midwestern Zone.

She was elected previously to the Kansas Senate in 1992, 1996 and 2000, and before that served one term in the Kansas House of Representatives. While in the legislature, she worked to gain passage of patient protection laws, external review of health plans and insurance, and the Kansas expansion of children's health insurance. In 2001 she led the successful campaign for mental health parity in Kansas.

AARP and Kansas Wildlife Federation all have recognized Commissioner Praeger as their "legislator of the year" for her work on issues important to their organizations.

A resident of Lawrence, Kansas, she served as mayor of Lawrence from 1986-87, and she served on the Lawrence City Commission from 1985-89.

Her community involvement includes the United Way of Douglas County Board of Directors, and she is a founding member of three local boards: Health Care Access (a clinic for the medically indigent), the Haskell Indian Nations University Foundation, and C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocates), an organization dedicated to helping children who come under the jurisdiction of the court.

Commissioner Praeger has been a speaker before numerous national organizations including: the American Association of Health Plans; the National Conference of State Legislatures; The Forum for State Health Policy Leadership; the National Association of Chain Drug Stores; the American Academy of Pediatrics; Women in Government; and the National Association of Health Data Organizations.

In 1999 Commissioner Praeger was a recipient of the prestigious Dr. Nathan B. Davis Award which is given annually by the American Medical Association to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the public health through elected and career government service.

In March of 1998, she testified before the U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, at the request of Senator James Jeffords, Chairman, on the topic of "balanced federalism" as it relates to health regulatory issues. She also appeared before the U.S. Senate Small Business Committee in February of 2003 expressing regulators' concerns about association health plans.

In 1997, The Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved also recognized her leadership on health care access issues. She was also recognized by The Center for Populations Options for legislation she sponsored in 1994 to create teen pregnancy prevention programs in Kansas.

Commissioner Praeger is a graduate of the University of Kansas. She lives in Lawrence with her husband, Dr. Mark Praeger, where she is active in several community organizations. They have two children, Gretchen and J.D., a daughter-in-law, Sevrin, a grandson, Jakson and a granddaughter Ava Margaret.